

*We worry about  
what our children  
will be tomorrow,  
yet we forget that  
they are someone  
today.*

- Stacia  
Tauscher

Your local Kidscreen  
contact is:

Phone:



Washington State  
Department of Social  
& Health Services

**Kids Come First Action Agenda  
Children's Administration**

**[www.wa.gov/dshs/ca/ca2hp.html](http://www.wa.gov/dshs/ca/ca2hp.html)**

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*Bringing*  
**Hope  
and  
Promise**  
*to*  
**Children's  
Lives!**

**Washington State  
Department of Social & Health Services**

INTRODUCING ...



*a new program to help give children in foster care the services they need.*

### **Children are important.**

With their individual dreams and talents, children have much to give to the world. For now, they rely on adults to make their world a better place. It's our responsibility to make sure they have what they need to grow and become everything they can be. For children in relative or foster care, our responsibility is even greater.

Each day in Washington State, there are approximately 11,000 children in placement outside their homes. From infants to teenagers, they are all individuals with very different needs. In order to make sure those needs are being met, it is important for us to know and understand what each child's needs are.

### **That's where Kidscreen comes in.**

Kidscreen is a new way of obtaining information about children who are placed outside their homes. Kidscreen can provide a complete picture of a child that will help decide which support services can make his or her life better.

### **How does Kidscreen work?**

During the first month of a child's placement, a trained Kidscreen specialist contacts the adults who know the child best, from birth parents, foster parents, or relatives with whom the child may be living, to early childhood caregivers, teachers, guidance counselors, and doctors.

Through these contacts, the specialist gathers information that will help to understand more about the child and decide what the child's needs are. How is the child's overall health? How is she getting along at home and with friends? Is he participating in classroom and outdoor activities?

Once the information is gathered, the child's needs are discussed with the important people in their lives. Then, the specialist helps to develop a plan that will make sure the child is getting the right services and support he or she may need.

### **How can you help?**

You are an important person in the life of a child who is in foster care. Whether you are a family member, teacher, or doctor, you can make an important difference in this child's life. When a Kidscreen specialist contacts you, you can help by giving answers and information, or by providing the specific services the child needs.

Your observations are the window into a child's life. The information you give us through Kidscreen will help us make sure we're doing all we can to make the child's life a healthy and happy one.

If you'd like to know more about foster children's services in Washington State, visit our Website at:

<http://www.wa.gov/dshs/fosterparents/>

**Bringing hope & promise to children's lives**